

EXHIBIT A  
**BROOKS & KUSHMAN P. C.**

*Intellectual Property and Technology Related Causes*

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September 28, 2000

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

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Mr. Mark A. Bakke  
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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Re: **New Patent Applications For:  
VIRTUAL TAPE LIBRARIES;  
INFORMATION NETWORK VIRTUAL BACKPLANE; and  
CANONICAL DEVICE INTERFACE  
Our File No.: STK 99001, 99002 and 99003 PUS**

Dear Inventors:

Please review the following draft patent applications and accompanying drawings. Also, please review the Declaration and Assignment for correct formal name, address, and citizenship. If you have any changes or suggestions, please forward them to me as soon as possible.

**These drafts are confidential StorageTek information. Please do not show these drafts to any non-StorageTek employee. While I am not particularly aware of the conditions of your past employment with StorageTek, you may have obligations not to disclose any information that you acquired while you were employed with StorageTek, including these inventions.**

The rules of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office specify that a duty of candor and good faith towards the Patent Office rest with the inventor, those associated with the inventor, and on each attorney or agent involved in the preparation or prosecution of the patent application to disclose to the Patent Office information they are aware of, which is material to the patentability examination of the application by the Patent Office. Failure to comply with this duty may result in the application being stricken from the files of the Patent Office or holding by a court that any resulting patent is invalid. In fulfillment of this obligation, any pertinent publication, prior art or information relating to a prior public use or sale of the invention that may be material to the

**BK**

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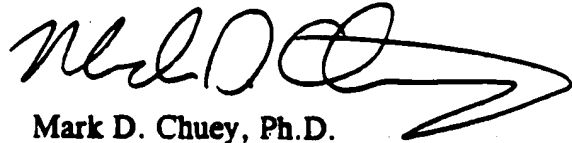
Mr. Mark A. Bakke  
Mr. Timothy J. Kuik  
September 28, 2000  
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patentability of the invention, must be disclosed to the Patent and Trademark Office. If you have any prior art or information that should be considered, please send a copy to me as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

**BROOKS & KUSHMAN P.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Chuey', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark D. Chuey, Ph.D.

MDC/ap  
Attachments

bcc: Tim Schulte (w/encl.)  
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